(d) the extent to which the centre will be able to preserve species ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Most of the developed countries have such facilities.

(c) The total cost of the project is Rs. 550.00 lakhs.

(d) The preservation of the wild animals would mainly depend upon the success of the Government in arresting the degradation of wildlife habitats and preventing poaching. The project can only help in developing ex-situ populations for augmenting the deplating population in wild.

Aircrafts Ground

2897. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether atleast 2 Airbus-A320 aircraft belonging to Indian Airlines (IA) had been ground at New Delhi during the last month owing to lack of engine spares;

(b) if so, for how many days these aircraft remained grounded;

(c) the reasons for not stocking the engine spares at the Headquarters of the Indian Airlines at New Delhi;

(d) its impact on the disruption of IA's flight services; and

(e) the steps being taken to procure presently the engine spares and to keep a stock thereof atleast at the principal stations of the Indian Airlines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The spares for V2500 engine of A-320 aircraft are stored at New Delhi. Necessary spares are also kept at other major stations.

Opening of ONGC Office

2898. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Andhra Pradesh Government for setting up of a Regional Office of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission at Rajamundry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Requests have been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up a Regional Office of ONGC Ltd. at Rajahmundry (Andhra Pradesh). Krishna Godawari Project of ONGC Ltd. at Rajahmundry has been upgraded and the level of the Project Head has been increased from General Manager to Group General Manager with enhanced delegation of power. Giving further autonomy and delegation of power to the Project Head is under consideration of ONGC Ltd.

Air Service for Tiger Hill and Gangtok

2899. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey for connecting Tiger Hill of Darjeeling and Gangtok of Sikkim by air;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no arerodrome at Tiger Hill of Darjeeling and Gangtok in Sikkim, nor has any request been received from any scheduled airline operator or Government of Sikkim.

Tourism Projects in Tripura

2900. SHRI BAJU BAN BIYAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Tripura has submitted proposals of developing of tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of projects sanctioned out of them?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c) Each year the Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Government prioritises projects for Central Financial Assistance. For 1997-98, the Department of

Tourism has prioritised nine tourism projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 217 lakhs for Central Financial Assistance. During the Eighth Plan, the Department of Tourism sanctioned. Rs. 278.56 lakhs to Tripura for Tourism projects.

International Cargo Flights

2901. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any measures for direct International Cargo Flights from Calcutta to different countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) to (c) Carriers are free to operate Cargo Flights under the Open Sky Policy. Major carriers like Lufthansa, Royal Jordanian and Kuwait Airways are operating freighters from and to Calcutta regularly.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Funds

2902. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount made available by the Union Government to the Government of Assam, and other States for computers, television environment, science education etc. during the Eight Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount spent out of it, item-wise;

(c) whether the entire allocated funds could not be utilised; and

(d) if so, the manner and time by which the funds would be utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (d) Statements indicating the total amounts released to the State Government of Assam and other States and the amounts utilised by them during the Eighth Five Year Plan under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools' (CLASS), Educational Technology, Scheme of Environmental Orientation to School Education and Improvement of Science Education are given in the Statements (I), (II), (III) & (IV) respectively.

The implementation schedules of four Schemes as referred to above vary from State of State. In certain cases State Governments have sought extension of period for utilisation of unspent amounts. Such State Governments have been impressed upon for speedy implementation of the Schemes.

Statement-I

(Rs. In lakhs)

Name of States/UTs	Total funds released	Utilisation status
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	373.80	Not reported by State Govt.
Arunachal Pradesh	42.17	6.32
Assam	234.50	148.80
Bihar	297.20	Not reported by State Govt.
Goa	100.35	77.20
Gujarat	372.70	Not reported by State Govt.
Haryana	237.15	Not reported by State Govt.
Himachal Pradesh	298.61	79.20
Jammu & Kashmir	118.79	Not reported by State Govt.
Karnataka	766.90	230.44
Kerala	416.76	122.00